



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2013-00694

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Facebook/Twitter Follow on from F-2013-00296

Request and Answer:

Question

Follow on after response to F-2013-00296

On my original request sent on 30/12/2012 I asked for the number of complaints the PSNI have received about Facebook/twitter from 2008-12. Included in this I asked for a breakdown of the number of complaints received by month and if possible a short description of what the complaint related to e.g bullying, a death threat, a Facebook page etc.

I received a reply saying the timescale was too long but that the PSNI could also supply the number of **incidents** where facebook or twitter were mentioned in the incident

investigation logs, however the following caveats would apply:-

- The number would relate to reported incidents, rather than the number of individual crimes.
- If facebook/twitter is mentioned in an incident investigation log, this does not imply that a crime occurred.
- If facebook/twitter is mentioned in an incident investigation log, this does signify that facebook and/or twitter were used by PSNI officers as part of the incident investigation.

(The ability to search investigation logs electronically was commenced on 14/10/2009, therefore ICS could only provide statistics from this date onwards.)

Question - I agreed to this refined request but I had also assumed that the details from my original request would be included in relation to some sort of short description as to why facebook/twitter was mentioned in the investigation logs.

As the system has been computerised, I assume this information can be readily accessed and was hoping you could send the raw data in an excel format so that I can identify some sort of pattern as to why social media was being used, even if they are just separated into some sort of different

categories.

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find as requested at the end of this correspondence the attached excel spreadsheet containing the closing codes for the incidents where facebook / twitter has been mentioned in the incident logs, this covers the period 14 October 2010 to 15 February 2012 inclusive. In order to provide a further description of why facebook/twitter was mentioned in the investigation logs each log would need to be manually opened for each incident, which would be in excess of the FOI cost threshold.

The following caveats would still apply:

- The number would relate to reported incidents, rather than the number of individual crimes.
- If facebook/twitter is mentioned in an incident investigation log, this does not imply that a crime occurred.
- If facebook/twitter is mentioned in an incident investigation log, this does signify that facebook and/or twitter were used by PSNI officers as part of the incident investigation.

Please note there are closing codes that are left blank on the spreadsheet these are incidents that have been manually created and therefore they do not have closing codes.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.